

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus, comprising:

a display;

a keyboard including alphanumeric keys each allocated to one character in a first input mode;

at least one cursor key for selecting ~~an item~~ a word generated by a predetermined program;

~~a ring of keys encircling the at least one cursor key, the ring of keys includes~~

a common button functioning as both an activation button for activating ~~[[a]]~~ the predetermined program and a determination button for determining the ~~[[item]]~~ word selected from ~~options~~ candidates appearing on the display according to a number of times a selected alphanumeric key is pressed in a second input mode while the predetermined program is activated,

wherein the common button and the cursor key are provided ~~near one end in an axial direction of a hinge pin~~ on a first side of the apparatus between the display and ~~[[a]]~~ the keyboard, and

wherein at least one of the alphanumeric keys of the keyboard is allocated to more than one character in the second input mode and is provided on a second side of the apparatus opposite to the first side.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a pointing device configured to move a pointer appearing on the display in a desired direction, wherein the pointing device is adjacent to the common button.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The information processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the at least one cursor key includes a plurality of cursor keys arranged around a perimeter of the pointing device and the common button is arranged outside a perimeter of the plurality of cursor keys.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the ring of keys includes a switch button configured to switch a direction of the display, and the switch button is adjacent to the cursor key.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

at least one auxiliary input key configured to input a first character when the predetermined program is not activated and to input a second character when the predetermined program is activated.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a mouse button set, including

a center button configured to scroll a screen appearing on the display;

a left button configured to operate as a first function button; and

a right button configured to operate as a second function button,

wherein the mouse button set is located near an opposite end from the common button and the cursor key in ~~[[the]]~~ an axial direction of ~~[[the]]~~ a hinge pin between the display and the keyboard.

Claim 7 (New): The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein  
the common button and the cursor key are only provided on the first side of the  
apparatus, and

the at least one of the alphanumeric keys allocated to more than one character in the  
second input mode is only provided on the second side of the apparatus opposite to the first  
side.